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BRIGHTLINGSEA
URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for 1959



BRIGHTLINGSEA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for 1959

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Medical Officer of Health to the Urban Districts of
Brightlingsea, Clacton, Frinton and Walton, the Rural District
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Public Health Inspector
Surveyor
Meat and Food Inspector
Water Engineer.

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July 1960.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report on the state of Public Health in the Urban District of Brightlingsea for 1959. The excellent summer of 1959 will long be remembered; in Clacton the amount of sunshine recorded was 2055.1 hours which is the highest since recording started in 1900. The rainfall of 15.21 inches was the lowest since 1933.

Notifications of infectious disease numbered 249 all of which were in respect of measles. No other cases of infectious disease were notified. This outbreak of measles was quite widespread and the numbers in Brightlingsea are only compatible with those occurring elsewhere.

Examination of the tables appearing elsewhere in the report will indicate the absence of Poliomyelitis, although in other parts of the country outbreaks of this disease were manifest. There can be little doubt that immunisation against Poliomyelitis is playing its part in the limitation of outbreaks, but there is much yet to be learnt about the behaviour of the Polio virus.

The tragic death from Poliomyelitis of a professional footballer during the early part of the year stimulated the polio immunisation campaign to a surprising extent. The death of this young man caused many thousands of young men and women to take advantage of the facilities Local Health Authorities had made available for immunisation against Poliomyelitis. It is difficult to reconcile the fact that it is necessary for an event of this nature to occur before many sections of the community become aware of their own vulnerability.

In each of my districts there has been a greater number of children immunised against diphtheria and whooping cough and vaccinated against smallpox. This is most encouraging and it is to be hoped that parents will continue to take advantage of the facilities offered by their Family Doctors and also by the clinics in the area.

VITAL STATISTICS

Population:

The Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year population has increased by 40.

Live Births:

The number of births is 10 less than in 1958 and the corrected birth rate is lower than that for England and Wales for 1959.

Still Births:

There were no still births in 1959.

Deaths:

The corrected death rate is 2.4 higher than the previous year. There were no deaths of infants under one year.



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During the year much attention was drawn in the National Press to the pollution of the sea by sewage. It was thought by many that there might be a health danger to sea bathers. This possible source of disease had not escaped notice and for several years many of us have been investigating the problems associated with bathing in sea water into which sewage effluent had been discharged. The report of the Medical Research Council has now been published on sewage contamination of bathing beaches. There is no evidence that bathing in the sea is a risk to health. However the report recommends, as indeed I have advocated to this Council for several years, that beaches which are aesthetically revolting should receive attention.

It is pleasing to be able to express my gratitude to the Public Health Committee and to the Council as a whole for the co-operation during the year. To the Staff of the Public Health Department I express my thanks for their work during the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R.D.PEARCE,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICAL MEMORANDUM FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT OF BRIGHTLINGSEA 1959

| | |
|--|---------|
| Area in acres | 2,852 |
| Population: | |
| 1959 Registrar General's Estimate | 4,690 |
| 1951 Census | 4,502 |
| Density of population per acre | 1.6 |
| Rateable value | £47,284 |
| Sum presented by a penny rate | £196 |
| Number of inhabited dwellings (approx.) | 1,780 |
| Total live births | 60 |
| Birth rate (crude) | 12.8 |
| Birth rate corrected | 15.1 |
| Birth rate (England and Wales) | 16.5 |
| Total live and still births | 60 |
| Total still births | - |
| Still birth rate | - |
| Still birth rate (England and Wales) | 20.7 |
| Total Deaths | 82 |
| Death rate (crude) | 17.48 |
| Death rate (corrected) | 12.23 |
| Death rate (England and Wales) | 11.6 |
| Deaths of infants under 1 year of age | - |
| Infant mortality rate | - |
| Infant mortality rate (England and Wales) | 22.0 |
| Infant mortality rate - legitimate | - |
| Infant mortality rate - illegitimate | - |
| Neo-natal mortality rate | - |
| Early Neo-natal mortality rate | - |
| Perinatal mortality rate | - |
| Number of illegitimate births | 3 |
| Percentage of total births | 5.0 |
| Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) | - |
| Maternal deaths | - |
| Maternal deaths | - |
| Cancer deaths | 12 |
| Tuberculosis deaths | - |

LIVE BIRTHS

| Male | Female |
|------------|--------|
| 37 | 23 |
| Total: 60. | |

The principal causes of, and various ages at, death are given in the following tables:-

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1959.

| Cause of death | Male | Female | Total |
|------------------------------------|------|--------|-------|
| Tuberculosis | ... | - | - |
| Cancer (all sites) | ... | 7 | 5 |
| Vascular lesions of nervous system | 9 | 11 | 20 |
| Coronary artery disease | 3 | 8 | 11 |
| Other heart disease | 8 | 9 | 17 |
| Other circulatory disease | 6 | - | 6 |
| Pneumonia | ... | 1 | 1 |
| Bronchitis | ... | 4 | 1 |
| Peptic Ulcer | ... | 1 | 1 |
| Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea | - | 1 | 1 |
| Other causes | ... | 3 | 5 |
| Blood diseases | ... | - | 2 |
| | — | — | — |
| | 42 | 40 | 82 |
| | — | — | — |

DEATH AT VARIOUS AGES DURING 1959

| | |
|-----------------------|----|
| 35 and under 45 years | 2 |
| 45 and under 55 years | 7 |
| 55 and under 65 years | 11 |
| 65 and under 75 years | 23 |
| 75 and under 85 years | 25 |
| 85 and over | 14 |
| | — |
| | 82 |
| | — |

PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The following figures show the number of infectious diseases which were notified in the district during 1959:-

| Disease | Cases Notified | Cases to Hospital | Cases at Home | Cases Confirmed | Deaths |
|---------|----------------|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|--------|
| Measles | 249 | - | 249 | 249 | - |

TUBERCULOSIS 1959

There were no new cases of Tuberculosis notified as occurring in the district.

TOTAL CASES ON REGISTER AT END OF 1959 = 28.

The age groups of the cases on the register are as follows:-

| Age Groups in Years | Respiratory | | Non-Respiratory | | Totals |
|------------------------|-------------|---|-----------------|---|--------|
| | M | F | M | F | |
| 1 - 5 | - | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| 15 - 25 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6 |
| 25 - 35 | 4 | 1 | 1 | - | 6 |
| 35 - 45 | 2 | 1 | - | 1 | 4 |
| 45 - 55 | 5 | - | 1 | - | 6 |
| 55 - 65 | 2 | 1 | - | - | 3 |
| 65 - 75 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 2 |
| Totals: | 17 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 28 |

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLIES

The Water Undertaking of the Council continued to function satisfactorily during the year even though the country, as a whole, suffered one of the driest summers for many years.

During the months of July and August, the water consumption in the area increased by approximately 20% but at no time was it necessary to curtail supplies. The lack, however, of an alternative source to Lower Park Works is a matter of some concern and it is desirable, if the Undertaking is to continue in the control of the Council, that provision be made for providing a bulk supply from the mains of the Tendring Rural District Council.

During the year four new valves were inserted in the distribution mains giving better control during repair and maintenance work.

Samples of water for chemical analysis and bacteriological examination were submitted regularly and all results were satisfactory.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

The summer conditions which caused so much concern to the Water Industry relieved the position at the Sewerage Works; the abnormal low rainfall experienced resulted in almost a trouble free year as far as sur-charging of the sewers was concerned.

The basic problem, however, continues to deteriorate as building activities proceed and more storm water enters the Sewerage System.

The position at the Pumping Station from the Western Promenade was not so good during the year and minor breakdowns and choking of pipes occurred during the busy holiday season. An additional Pumping Station for this area is now a matter of some urgency.

RIVER AND STREAM POLLUTION

The main sewage disposal to the Creek is through the Council's Sewerage Works and every effort is made to prevent any nuisance arising from the operation of the works.

Samples of the treated effluent have been taken by the River Board from time to time.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION

The following is a synopsis of the principal work carried out by the Public Health Inspector during 1959:-

| | |
|---|-----|
| Inspections (Public Health and Housing Acts) | 541 |
| Other inspections | 352 |
| Informal Notices complied with | 23 |
| Statutory Notices served | 2 |
| Statutory Notices complied with | 2 |
| Number of Premises at which Nuisances were abated | 5 |

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE PRINCIPAL IMPROVEMENTS OBTAINED:- *

HOUSES

| | |
|--|----|
| Dirty | - |
| Verminous | - |
| Damp | 7 |
| Defective pointing of external walls | 2 |
| Defective roofs | 35 |
| Defective plaster of walls and ceiling | 12 |
| Defective floors | 6 |
| Defective window frames | 12 |
| Want of ventilation | - |
| Defective doorsteps | - |
| Defective doors and door frames | 30 |
| Want of defective skirting boards | - |
| Water supply cut off or insufficient | 25 |
| Miscellaneous | 6 |

DRAINAGE

| | |
|---------------------------------|----|
| Want of drainage | - |
| Defective drainage | 14 |
| Stopped drains | 22 |
| Defective sink, waste pipe etc. | 8 |
| Other defects | 9 |

CLOSETS

| | |
|--|----|
| Structure defective | 1 |
| Fittings defective | 7 |
| Want of water supply to closet cistern | 19 |

| | |
|----------------------------------|----|
| Broken closet pedestals and pans | 8 |
| Defective flushing apparatus | 43 |

PAVING

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Yards, passages or paths defective | - |
|------------------------------------|---|

OTHER NUISANCES

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Accumulations | - |
| Other outside defects | - |

DUSTBINS

| | |
|---------------------------|----|
| Defective or insufficient | 20 |
|---------------------------|----|

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Includes Local Authority Property | * |
|-----------------------------------|---|

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Number of Infested Houses | |
| (a) Council Houses | - |
| (b) Other Houses | - |
| (c) Caravans | - |

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Number of Houses Disinfested | |
| (a) Council Houses | - |
| (b) Other Houses | - |
| (c) Caravans | - |

VERMIN, MOTH, ETC.

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Rooms fumigated | - |
| Houses fumigated | - |
| Caravans fumigated | - |

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Premises registered | - |
| Inspections at premises | - |

SHOPS ACT, 1950

Inspections have been made from time to time and action to enforce compliance with the Act has been taken where necessary.

RAG FLOCK ACT, 1951

There are no manufacturers of Rag Flock within the Urban District.

BATHING POOL

The Bathing Pool continues to be operated satisfactorily but falls far short of modern standards of infiltration and chlorination.

Samples of water from the Pool are submitted weekly for bacteriological examination and all results were satisfactory.

The structure of the Pool, however, is rapidly reaching a stage when complete reconstruction will have to be considered.

CARAVANS AND CAMPING GROUNDS

The Local Authority continue to operate the only Caravan Sites in the area. The call for further accommodation is increasing and steps have been taken to acquire additional land for this purpose.

Additional sanitary accommodation has now been provided at the Tower End Site.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Visits by Public Health Inspector | 41 |
| Visits by the Rodent Operator | 240 |

HOUSING

New Houses and Flats erected during 1959

| | Number of Houses |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Private Enterprise | 9 |
| Council Houses | - |
| Council Flats | - |
| | - |
| | 9 |
| | - |

FOOD

The following list shows the number of visits paid to premises at which food for human consumption is sold or prepared:-

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----|----|
| Cafes and Restaurants | ... | 6 |
| School Canteen | ... | 1 |
| Butchers' Shops | ... | 20 |
| Fish Friers | ... | 4 |
| Wet Fish Shops | ... | 4 |
| Bread and Cake Shops | ... | 6 |
| Slaughterhouses | ... | 30 |
| Ice Cream Vendors | ... | 12 |
| Bakehouses | ... | 4 |
| Dairies | ... | 2 |

The following is a list of improvements obtained in Food Premises:-

| | | |
|----------------------------|-----|---|
| Want of washing facilities | ... | 2 |
| Want of Cleanliness | ... | 1 |
| Conditions of walls | ... | 2 |
| Conditions of ceilings | ... | 1 |
| Defects in drainage | ... | - |
| Sanitary accommodation | ... | - |

REGISTRATION OF FOOD PREPARING PREMISES

The number of premises registered pursuant to Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act is as follows:-

| | | |
|--|-----|----|
| Sausage meat, pressed, pickled and preserved meat | ... | 6 |
| Sale of ice cream | ... | 15 |

FOOD AND DRUGS AUTHORITY

The Council is not the Food and Drugs Authority for the District.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

There are two licensed slaughterhouses.

The following list gives details of the diseased or unsound meat and other foods found unfit for human consumption. They were all surrendered voluntarily and destroyed or used for animal feeding.

Unsound food dealt with by the Council is disposed of at the controlled tip.

| | | |
|-------------|---|-----------|
| Corned Beef | 3 | 6 lb tins |
| Chopped Ham | 5 | 4 lb tins |

| | | |
|-----------------|----|-----------|
| Cooked Shoulder | 2 | 9 lb tins |
| Ox Kidney | 7 | lbs |
| Beef | 13 | lbs |
| Roasted Chicken | 24 | lbs |

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

| | Cattle excluding Cows | Cows | Calves | Sheep and Lambs | Pigs |
|---|-----------------------------|------|--------|-----------------------|------|
| Number killed (if known) | - | - | - | - | - |
| Number inspected | - | - | - | - | - |
| Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci: | | | | | |
| Whole carcases condemned | - | - | - | - | - |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned | - | - | - | - | - |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci... | - | - | - | - | - |
| <u>Tuberculosis only:</u> | | | | | |
| Whole carcases condemned | - | - | - | - | - |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned | - | - | - | - | - |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis..... | - | - | - | - | - |
| <u>Cysticercosis:</u> | | | | | |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned | - | - | - | - | - |
| Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration.... | - | - | - | - | - |
| Generalised and totally condemned | - | - | - | - | - |

MILK SUPPLY

The milk supply for the Urban District is obtained from Dairy Companies in the Area.

MILK (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949.

There are 9 registered distributors supplying milk in the district of whom 6 have premises within the Area.

| | |
|---|---|
| Dealer's Licences Pasteurised Milk | 6 |
| Supplementary Licences Pasteurised Milk | 1 |
| Dealer's Licences Tuberculin Tested Milk | 4 |
| Supplementary Licences Tuberculin Tested Milk | 1 |
| Dealer's Licences Sterilised Milk | 5 |

Producers and Producer-retailers are the concern of the Ministry of Agriculture.

ICE CREAM

The total number of persons registered to sell ice cream is 15. No ice cream is sold in this district except as pre-wrapped from reputable sources. All samples of ice cream examined were Grade I.

BAKEHOUSES

There are four bakehouses in the Urban District but there are no underground bakehouses. Six inspections were made during the year.

SHELLFISH

During 1959 1,057,145 oysters were passed through the purification tanks at Brightlingsea. No unsatisfactory results were obtained from bacteriological examinations.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The Public Cleansing continues to be carried out satisfactorily in the area and summer tipping is now taking place on the new site in Back Road.

Every effort is being made to operate in accordance with the Ministry of Health Regulations and any complaints of nuisance are immediately attended to.

Street gullies are emptied mechanically three times per year.

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 and 1948

PART I OF THE ACT

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

| Premises (1) | Number on Reg- ister (2) | Number of | | Occupiers prosecuted (5) |
|--|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | Inspec- tions (3) | Written Notices (4) | |
| (i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities | 5 | 12 | - | - |
| (ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority | 24 | 25 | - | - |
| (iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) | 2 | 12 | - | - |
| Totals: | 31 | 49 | - | - |

2. Cases in which defects were found.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases".)

| Particulars | No. of cases in which defects were found | | | | Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted |
|--|--|---------------|---------------------------|--|---|
| | Found | Reme- died | To H.M. Inspec- tor | Referred By H.M. Inspec- tor. | |
| (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) | (6) |
| Want of Cleanliness (S.1) | - | - | - | - | - |
| Overcrowding (S. 2) | - | - | - | - | - |
| Unreasonable temperature (S.3) | - | - | - | - | - |
| Inadequate ventilation (S.4) | - | - | - | - | - |
| Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)... | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) | | | | | |
| (a) Insufficient | - | - | - | - | - |
| (b) Unsuitable or defective... | 3 | 3 | - | - | - |
| (c) Not separate for sexes | - | - | - | - | - |
| Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)..... | - | - | - | - | - |
| Totals: | 3 | 3 | - | - | - |

PART VIII OF THE ACT

SECTIONS 110 and 111

| Nature of work | Section 110 | | | Section 111 |
|------------------------------|---|--|--|-------------|
| | No of Out-workers in August list required by Section 110 (1)(c) | No of cases of default in sending lists to the Council | Number of prosecutions for failure to supply lists | |
| (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) |
| Wearing Apparel, Making etc. | 2 | - | - | - |

